APPENDIX VII.

[Vide answer to question No. 273 asked by Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 1st November 1933, page 288 supra.]

Letter from the Collector of Ganjam, dated 30th September 1933, *Ref. No. A*-5-6547/33.

[Floods—Chatrapur taluk—Palur estate Chilka lake canal and Raja Ghayi—Breaches—Detailed report.]

I submit my detailed report as follows:—

Causes and extent of the floods.—On 10th August 1933 there was a rise of water in the Chilka lake owing to unprecedented floods in the neighbouring districts of Bihar and Orissa and there was consequent rise of water also in Ganjam Chilka canal. At Gokurkudda, the Salt department put up a dam across the canal for salt water to back up and go to the pans. This dam, it appears, was not removed completely and consequently the water from the Chilka could not flow freely to the sea, but overflowed the banks of the canal at some places. Early on the morning of 11th August 1933, the banks being weak, breached at several places. On account of the breaches, salt water entered into the cultivated fields and caused a big breach in the Raja Ghayi which is a bund between the cultivated fields and the Chilka lake. On 14th August 1933, there was more than 10 feet of water over these cultivated fields at some places. The water receded afterwards. The area affected was promptly visited by the Tahsildar and Revenue Divisional Officer, Chatrapur. I have personally inspected the area myself on 24th September 1933 in company with the President, District Board, Ganjam. The District Health Officer, Ganjam, also visited the area on 30th August 1933 to take precautions against danger to public health. The water receded after 18th August 1933.

2. *Total number of lives lost and families that have been rendered homeless.*—There has been no loss of human life. Six villages (including their hamlets) containing 484 households were affected by the floods. Fortunately the progress of the inundation was sufficiently slow for the ryots to remove themselves and much of their movable property to places of safety. On 18th August 1933 they were able to return to their villages. Eleven houses were damaged. A sum of Rs. 90 was paid to the owners of the houses to repair the damage.

3. *The extent of damage done to*—(*a*) *Government property other than irrigation works.*—No damage has been done to any Government property except to banks of the Chilka canal which is said to vest in the Salt department. It is not maintained properly and the banks have been

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worn low in places by traffic and other causes. About Rs. 5,000 will be necessary to bring the canal banks into a proper state of repair. The breaches have occurred within the limits of the Palur estate and the damage has been confined to the villages of that estate, viz., Lokhonopur and its hamlets, Kambarigam, hamlet of Palurgoda, Brahmarakuddi, Prayagi and its hamlets, Dubarakuddi and its hamlets, Binchanapalli.

(b) *Minor irrigation works.*—There are no minor irrigation works in the locality.

(c) *Crops and fields and other private property including houses and livestock.*—Paddy crop to an extent of about 1,000 acres of estate villages was submerged.

There is no hope of growing paddy again on this extent this year. The fertility of the paddy fields will also decrease temporarily owing to the stagnation of the salt water.

Ten dwelling houses in Lokhonopur villages collapsed and 11 houses were damaged in the other villages. Nine buffaloes and five bullocks died. The drinking water tanks and wells in the villages were affected by the brackish water.

4. *The measures taken to mitigate the effects of the floods.*—As soon as the floods became uncontrollable, the residents of the affected villages came away with most of their movable properties to Palurgoda village. They were temporarily accommodated in vacant houses in cattle-sheds and other places. There was no need for the issue of rations to these people as they brought their own stocks. On 18th August 1933 they returned to their villages to look after their houses and other properties left behind. In these circumstances there was nothing more to be done for them.

5. *Measures taken for the relief of distress and their cost to the Government.*—Out of Rs. 400 sanctioned in G.O. Ms. No. 1507, Revenue, dated 23rd August 1933, an amount of Rs. 90 was spent by way of help to the people whose houses have been damaged. A statement showing the distribution of the amount is enclosed.

6. *Whether it is proposed to give further relief*—(i) *By way of advances*—(a) *To cultivators.*—Loans will be given on ordinary terms when required.

(b) *To the people rendered homeless for the purpose of helping them to rebuild or repair their houses.*—No further relief is necessary.

(ii) *Otherwise.*—I understand that the Palur ryots get a substantial subsidiary income from felling and selling timber from the neighbouring hills. The people of Lokhonopur and Bhimpur own buffaloes which find ample grazing on the shores of the Chilka creeks. They have a subsidiary industry in the weaving of mats of local grass and many households are engaged in this. There is no immediate prospect of serious shortage of food. No stocks of grain were lost in the floods. Though there is no immediate prospect of famine there is no doubt that the cultivators in this area have been hard hit as they will not get a crop till December 1934. Persons that live by doing coolie work in these fields

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will also be affected. It is very desirable that they should be given some opportunity of earning a little money. The President, District Board, is sanctioning immediate repairs to two drinking-water tanks one in Lokhanopur and one in Bhimpur which will cost about Rs. 200 each. It will be seen if these will attract local labour. A road is under construction from the trunk road up to Palur. The President, District Board, is considering the possibility of extending this about a mile and a half to the Chilka canal. There is no urgent necessity for this road but in view of the relief it would give to the affected area which, shut in as it is by bills and the Chilka lake, is rather isolated, this work is very desirable. Government should contribute half the cost.

The manager of the Palur Estate promises to spend Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 on repairs to the Raja Ghayi in November 1933 but as this estate is impoverished, I doubt, whether this promise will be implemented. I am however asking her to do this work.

7. *Approximate estimated cost on account of (a) repairs to Government property mentioned in* (3) *(a) and* (*b*) *above and anticipated remission of revenue.*—To close the breaches in the banks of the Chilka canal a sum of Rs. 5,000 will be required. Several culverts and the banks are in a bad condition. The Factory Officer says that this canal belongs to the Salt department. No remission of Government revenue is necessary.

8. *The number of breaches that have been closed by private individuals.*—About 25 breaches have been closed temporarily by private individuals.

9. *Whether it is practicable and desirable to take any measures to prevent the recurrence of such floods or to mitigate their effect and, if so, what measures.*—The paddy crop over a large part of the area bounded by the Chilka lake on the north, salt canal on the east, Palur Hill on the south and Jakkiria Hill on the west has been destroyed by the floods. I understand that this area is cultivated mainly by the ryots from the Lokhanopur village situated at the mouth of the Sale canal and by the ryots of Palur village. The area is normally protected from the brackish water of the Chilka lake by a bund running along the edge of the lake over the Raja Ghayi which was constructed by the Palur estate. The floods breached this bund. The water of the Chilka lake also entered this area through the banks of the Chilka lake canal. It is practicable and desirable to take measures to prevent recurrence of floods.

The repair of the Chilka canal is necessary and practicable. This was dug in 1865 by the Government of Madras as a famine work—vide page 199 of the Manual of Ganjam District. It runs through zamindari land. It is not separately demarcated and the land was presumably not acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. The Government constructed this work to relieve distress and it is not equitable that it should be allowed to fall into disrepair and be a source of danger to crops on the adjacent lands. I am requesting the Executive Engineer to send me an estimate urgently of the cost of bringing the bund up to the requisite

level to protect in future the affected areas as I think the rough estimate of Rs. 5,000 is a little high and I will report to the Board soon after I hear from him. Though the Factory Officer at Humma is under the impression that this canal belongs to the Salt department, I am not at all sure that he is right. The District Manual says that it was dug as a famine work and though the Salt Factory utilizes the canal I am not sure that it is necessary to the Salt department and shall not be surprised if they repudiate all responsibility. According to the Ganjam District Manual, page 228, the supply of brine is obtained through a creek that meet the Chilka lake canal and not from the Chilka lake. The canal was dug as a famine work and as stated above it should not be allowed to become a source of charge and loss to the adjacent lands. I strongly recommend that repairs to it be put in hand by December when the ryots will begin to feel the pinch and that this work should not be delayed by a lengthly correspondence with the Salt department as to who is to bear the whole or a portion of the cost. The work should be done and the cost or a portion of it recovered from them in due course.

There are no minor irrigation works in the affected area.

Serial number and name of the village.	Name of owner.	Amount recommended for grant.	Remarks.
		RS.	
1 Lokhonopur	1 Proharaj Pollayi	5	
	2 Tumma Nayako	10	
	3 Konnai Biswalo	15	
	4 Bhaigo Naiko	10	
2 Bhimpur, hamlet of Lokhonopur.	Narathomo Sahu	10	This house fell after the report was submitted with this office No. 2110/33, dated 27th August 1933.
3 Kambharigam	Nondo Mudali	..	The cattle-shed which has collapsed, has since been repaired.
4 Kullokuddi	Sombari Podhano	5	Mud walls are partly damaged.
5 Prayagi	1 Kunjo Gowdo	10	
	2 Dharma Gowdo	10	
	3 Trinatho Setti	5	This house was damaged after the report No. 2110/33, dated 27th August 1933, was submitted.
	4 Koibolo Naiko	10	The house was damaged after the report No. 2110/33, dated 27th August 1933.
		90	

N.B.—No provision is made for labour.

Copy of letter from A. R. C. Westlake, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Ganjam, dated 14th *September* 1933, *Ref. No. A*-5-7292/33.

Consequent upon three days' rain an extensive area between Chatrapur and Rushikulya river has been covered by floods. On the 12th September Rushikulya was running very full about 6 feet below road and railway bridges. By midday on the 13th the water was reported to be touching

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the bridges and the country between the Rushikulya and Chatrapur had been converted into a vast lake, apparently by the overflow of the Rushikulya. The full extent of the inundation is not at present known.

2. As fears were expressed for the safety of Rajapore, a village 3 or 4 miles from Chatrapur which was completely cut off and as local boatmen refused to go, I had a catamaran brought from the sea shore by the lorry and reached the village at sunset crossing 2½ miles of flood. I was shortly after followed by three more catamarans with a police signaller and my jamadar. The village had been completely cut off since midday and the villagers were apprehensive as the flood had reached the level unknown to the oldest inhabitants of the village. A portion of the village was on higher ground and the houses were substantially built, the danger of any loss of life being remote. My arrival did something to reassure the villagers and I was able to report through the signal station set up by the police signaller that there was no real danger. In any case effective assistance could not have been rendered as the evacuation of the village of 300 houses was impossible with the few boats available. The flood continued to rise till about midnight when it began to subside. At daybreak the boats brought in a Sadhu marooned in a temple half a mile from the village. I returned to Chatrapur this morning. A very large area is still under a minimum depth of 3 feet of water. If it flows off within the next three days I do not anticipate any great damage to the crops. Some other villages are in precarious positions and the Tahsildar is attempting to reach them by boat to-day. No loss of life has yet been reported. It will be some days before the situation is clear. The weather to-day is fine and bright and I shall send my complete report with full information available. Floods are also reported in Ghumsur and Aska taluks.

Copy of letter from A. R. C. Westlake, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Ganjam, dated 16th September 1933, *Ref. No.* A-5-7292/33.

[Floods—Ganjam district.]

In continuation of my report, dated 14th September 1933, I have to submit this further report. From the 8th to the 13th September heavy rain was general in the district. In Russellkonda there was a fall of 20–75 cents in this period culminating in a fall of nearly 7 inches on the 13th. The Rushikulya and Mahanadhi rivers rose slowly till about 6 p.m. on the 12th, after which a rapid rise took place. The flood mark at Aska shows a level of only 6 inches below that of the highest recorded flood of 1913. The town of Aska was surrounded by water, the low lying portions inundated and the houses occupied by Haddis (scavengers) destroyed. River side villages were surrounded by the floods and some were reported to be inaccessible even on the 14th. One woman is reported to be crushed under a wall and another woman was washed away while bathing. Apart from this no loss of life or cattle has been reported as yet.

2. The Ghumsur taluk was also affected by the floods and some loss of crops may have occurred, as the paddy crop over an extensive area was submerged for over three days.

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3. In Chatrapur taluk, as already reported, a large area on the south side of the Rushikulya river was submerged from the morning of the 13th and some villages on the northern bank of the river were also inundated. The Madras-Calcutta Railway line was breached at a point about 600 yards south of the Rushikulya bridge and through running was interrupted until yesterday evening. The flood rose till early hours of the morning of the 14th, subsiding gradually on the 14th and rapidly on the 15th. On the afternoon of the 15th most of the flood water had run off. I do not think that much damage has been done to the crops in this area. No loss of human life or cattle has yet been reported. A number of mud houses and cattle-sheds have collapsed but brick and stone buildings generally resisted the floods. Floods also occurred in the area around Rambha.

Detailed reports on the condition of the southern part of the district have not yet been received, but I learn that there have been floods in the Vamsadhara. The railway line between Varanasi and Parlakimedi was breached but restored on the 14th.

Some damage has been caused, of course, to the irrigation works of the Rushikulya system.

Letter from A. R. C. Westlake, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Ganjam, Ref. No. A-5-7292/33, dated 21st September 1933.

[Ganjam district—Floods—September 13.]

In continuation of my report, dated 16th September 1933, I have to report that officers of the Revenue and Public Works Department have been actively touring in the affected areas and from their reports I have been able to gather some idea of the damage done.

2. In Aska taluk of the Ghumsur Division, damage has been caused to houses in the town of Aska (78 houses) and in 11 villages 36 houses have collapsed and 64 have been damaged. The total loss of life has been two. (These are the two cases formerly reported as occurring in Ghumsur taluk.) The flood banks of Mahanadi river have breached in many places and several minor irrigation sources have been breached. There appears to be very little loss of cattle. Damage to crops has not been fully ascertained but in view of the fact that the paddy has not reached the stage of flowering it is not expected to be serious. The Tahsildar, Aska, roughly estimates the area affected in Government villages to be 400 to 500 acres most of which will yield not less than 4 to 6 annas. The zamindari lands lying around Aska have also suffered, but total loss is expected only on very low lying lands.

3. The Ghumsur taluk in Ghumsur division has not suffered to the same extent.

4. In Chatrapur of the Chatrapur division one human life has been lost. House property has been damaged in twenty villages. Two hundred and fifty-one houses have collapsed and 79 been damaged. Seven cows and one calf are missing, presumably drowned. The bunds

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of Koratoli Tampara channels have been breached and the irrigation may be in danger. The Public Works Department has been directed to repair them. The damage to crop has not been ascertained but as most of the fields were clear of water in three days I do not anticipate that it will be extensive. Low lying paddy fields and dry crops on the banks of Rushikulya have suffered to some extent. Complete reports on damage of house property have not yet been received. The houses of the depressed classes and poorer ryots which were naturally in low and more exposed sites form a considerable proportion of the houses affected. In anticipation of sanction I have utilized Rs. 300 of the grant made for the Palur flood and not yet expended for grants to poor ryots for house-building. I request that this may be approved and a further sum of Rs. 1,000 put at my disposal for grants for rebuilding houses, as an interim measure of relief until the full extent of the damage done is known. Loans for house-building will be granted to ryots who are not qualified for other assistance.

Copy of letter from the Collector of Ganjam, Ref. No. A-5-7292/33, *dated the 26th September* 1933.

The inspection of villages affected by the flood is practically completed. The villages along the banks of Rushikulya in Chatrapur taluk have suffered most. According to the latest report 41 villages have been affected, 355 houses completely collapsed and 150 have been damaged by the floods. The total loss of life in Aska taluk was two as already reported and it has been ascertained that two deaths occurred in Chatrapur taluk.

2. There have been extensive damage to flood banks and 10 minor irrigation tanks in Chatrapur taluk have breached. The loss of cattle is negligible. Major irrigation works have suffered considerable damage. The Executive Engineer entertains no anxiety as regards the supply of water except in Jayamangalam where the Bagala regulator has been outflanked by a 60 feet breach in the tail end of the seventh distributary. The Executive Engineer is however confident that repairs will be done before any real water scarcity occurs.